

Application No. 10/603,221
 Amendment Dtd 09/02/2004
 Reply to Office Action Dtd 08/02/2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A sculling apparatus for propelling a boat through a body of water, the boat having a generally vertical and rigid surface with a top edge along the boat's perimeter, the apparatus comprising

a vertical stock with an upper end and a lower end, the vertical stock centered
 5 about a vertical axis;

a mounting means supporting the vertical stock for radial movement about the vertical axis and providing removable attachment of the vertical stock to the rigid vertical surface of the boat;

an actuating means enabling a human to impart radial movement to the
 10 vertical stock about the vertical axis, the actuating means pivotably connected about a first horizontal axis to the upper end, wherein the actuating means may be pivoted from a first position for operational deployment to a second position generally adjacent to the vertical stock for compact storage when not operationally deployed; and

~~a propulsion means a fin comprised of a plurality of overlapping panels~~
 15 attached to the lower end, each panel independently pivotable about a second common second horizontal axis extending through both the lower end and the panels, wherein the ~~propulsion means plurality of panels~~ may be pivoted from a third position extending generally horizontally from the lower end for operational deployment to a fourth position generally adjacent to the vertical stock for compact storage when not operationally
 20 deployed.

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2. (currently amended)The apparatus described in Claim 15, wherein the actuating means is a tiller and the first position comprises the extension of the tiller in a generally perpendicular orientation from the upper end of the vertical stock.

3. (currently amended)The apparatus described in Claim 15, wherein the mounting means comprises a clamp for removable attachment of the apparatus to the top edge of the vertical surface.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended)The apparatus described in Claim 15, wherein the vertical surface is the transom of the boat.

6. (currently amended)The apparatus described in Claim 15, wherein the apparatus further comprises a displacement control means for selectively adjusting the depth of the lower end beneath a surface of the body of water when the apparatus is mounted on the boat.

7. (original) The apparatus described in Claim 6, wherein the displacement control means comprises a bushing receiving the vertical stock inserted therethrough, the bushing adjustably secured to the vertical stock and supported by the mounting means between a pair of stops on the mounting means, wherein the bushing, when the bushing is adjustably secured to the vertical stock, moves radially when the vertical stock moves radially but prevents the vertical stock from being raised or lowered with respect to the mounting means.

8. (canceled)

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9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The apparatus described in Claim ~~8~~1, wherein the fin is comprised of an upper panel and a lower panel, each panel having a flexible end and a stiff end, the stiff ends pivoting about the second horizontal axis.

11. (original) The apparatus described in Claim 10, wherein the fin is comprised of a resilient material.

12. (original) The apparatus described in Claim 11, wherein the resilient material is selected from a group consisting of rubber, polyethylene, polypropylene, and wood.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus described in Claim 14, wherein the step means comprises~~ A sculling apparatus for propelling a boat through a body of water, the boat having a generally vertical and rigid surface with a top edge along the boat's perimeter, the apparatus comprising

a vertical stock with an upper end and a lower end, the vertical stock centered about a vertical axis;

a mounting means supporting the vertical stock for radial movement about the vertical axis and providing removable attachment of the vertical stock to the rigid vertical surface of the boat;

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10 an actuating means enabling a human to impart radial movement to the vertical stock about the vertical axis, the actuating means pivotably connected about a first horizontal axis to the upper end, wherein the actuating means may be pivoted from a first position for operational deployment to a second position generally adjacent to the vertical stock for compact storage when not operationally deployed; and

15 a fin attached to the lower end and pivotable about a second horizontal axis, the fin attached to the vertical stock by a bracket, the bracket comprising two parallel plates extending from the vertical stock in a generally perpendicular orientation, the second horizontal axis passing through the two parallel plates so that the fin is frictionally captured therebetween when pivotably rotated about the second horizontal axis, each plate with a
20 horizontal flange along an upper extent of each of the two parallel plate[s], the flange[s] extending in opposite directions to allow the propulsion means to unimpededly move from the third position to the fourth position therebetween outwardly from the fin;

wherein the fin may be pivoted from a third position extending from the lower end in an orientation generally perpendicular to the vertical stock when operationally deployed
25 to a fourth position generally adjacent to the vertical stock for compact storage when not operationally deployed, and wherein the flanges form a step disposed to enable a person in the water to place a foot thereon in order to assist the person in leveraging himself out of the water and into the boat.

16. (currently amended) A sculling apparatus for propelling a boat through a body of water, the boat having a generally vertical surface with a top edge, the apparatus comprising

5 a vertical stock with an upper end and a lower end, the vertical stock centered about a vertical axis;

 a tiller pivotably connected about a first horizontal axis to the upper end, the tiller pivotable from a first position for operational deployment to a second position generally

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adjacent to the vertical stock for compact storage when not operationally deployed, the first position orienting the tiller in a horizontal plane generally perpendicular to the vertical shaft so that radial tiller movement imparts radial movement to the vertical stock about the vertical axis;

a flexible fin comprising two overlapping panels, the fin captured between two parallel plates fixedly attached to the lower end and extending in a generally perpendicularly perpendicular direction from the lower end, the fin pivotably attached about a second horizontal axis passing through the plates and the panels so that the plates frictionally capture the fin therebetween, wherein the fin may be pivoted from a third position for operational deployment to a fourth position generally adjacent to the vertical stock for compact storage when not operationally deployed; and

a mounting assembly supporting the vertical stock, the mounting assembly comprising a clamp for removably attaching the vertical stock to an upper edge of a rigid surface of the boat, the clamp permitting radial movement of the vertical stock about the vertical axis, the mounting assembly further comprising a bushing through which the vertical stock passes, the bushing adjustably attached to the vertical stock to allow selective displacement of the lower end of the vertical stock.

17. (new) A sculling apparatus described in Claim 16, wherein plurality of panels is comprised of two panels, each panel independently pivoting about the second horizontal axis.

18. (new) A sculling apparatus described in Claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of parallel plates has an outwardly turned flange along an upper edge of each plate, wherein the flange may be used as a step enabling a person in the water to place a foot thereon and leverage himself out of the water into the boat while the fin is deployed in the third operational position.

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19. (new) A sculling apparatus described in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of overlapping panels is frictionally captured between a pair of plates forming a portion of the lower end, the second horizontal axis extending through the panels and the plates.